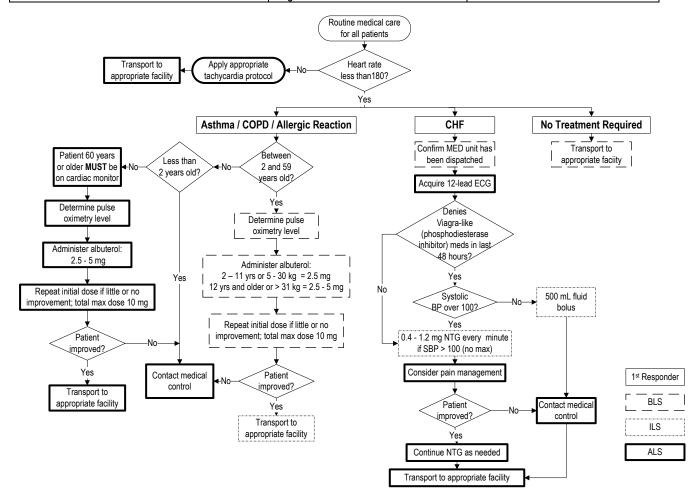
Initiated: 5/22/98
Reviewed/revised: 7/1/11
Revision: 20

MILWAUKEE COUNTY EMS MEDICAL PROTOCOL RESPIRATORY DISTRESS

Approved by: Ronald Pirrallo, MD, MHSA			
WI EMS Approval Date: 6/22/11			
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History	Signs/Symptoms	Working Assessment
May have a history of asthma	Chest tightness	Asthma/Allergic Reaction
Exposure to irritant	Dyspnea	
Recent URI	Coughing or wheezing	
	Accessory muscle use	
History of COPD	Chronic cough	COPD
	Dyspnea	
	Pursed lip breathing	
	Prolonged exhalation	
	Barrel chest	
	Clubbing of fingers	
May have a history of CHF	Orthopnea	CHF
,	Restlessness	
	Wet or wheezing breath sounds	
	Hypertension	
	Tachycardia	
	Jugular vein distention	



Notes:

- A history of CHF is not required before treatment is initiated.
- If an asthmatic has no improvement after 10 mg of EMS administered albuterol therapy, consider contacting medical control for an **order** for intramuscular epinephrine.
- Patient's self-treatment does not limit EMS provider's albuterol dosing.